UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1999/2
10 June 1999

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Working Group on Indigenous Populations
Seventeenth session
26-30 July 1999
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the secretariat

1. At its sixteenth session, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations welcomed the invitation by the Director-General of UNESCO to the Working Group to hold its seventeenth session at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. It decided not to take a final decision on the matter in view of the concerns expressed by a number of indigenous organizations. It recommended that indigenous delegations consult with their communities and inform the Working Group at its seventeenth session and the High Commissioner for Human Rights of their views. The Sub-Commission, in its resolution 1998/23, endorsed the decision of the Working Group.

2. As of 1 June 1999, the Office of the High Commissioner had received communications from 18 indigenous organizations and 2 non-governmental organizations. In the communications received, 15 indigenous organizations and 2 non-governmental organizations expressed their support for holding the seventeenth session of the Working Group in Paris and 3 indigenous organizations opposed that proposal.